Unemployed persons

175. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of unemployed persons in the country till June, 1987, Statewise;

(b) what was the number of unemployed persons in the country at the close of the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(c) what is the target of employment during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Information is not available.

(b) The number of unemployed persons in the country at the close of the Sixth Five Year Plan was 9.2 million for the age group 5 and above, according to the Seventh Plan document.

(c) The target of additional employment to be generated during the Seventh Five Year Plan is 40.36 million Standard Person Years (SPY).

Working of passport offices in the country

176. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of staff at different passport offices in the country till March, 1987;

(b) the total number of passports issued by these offices during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the staff at these offices on account of the large number of applications being received in these offices for the issue of passports;

(d) the average time taken in issuing passports; and

(e) the number of complaints received against the delay in the issue of passports during the last three years and the details of the remedial measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Total No. of staff sanctioned for the Passport Offices as on 31st March, 1987 was: 1437.

(b) The total number of passports issued by these offices during the last three years are:

1984	...	14,12,723
1985	...	10,84,823
1986	...	11,97,745
Total:		36,95,391

(c) The position of staff in all the Passport Offices is reviewed every year in January—March according to the norms prescribed by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance, based on the statistics of work for the previous calendar year. Thus the staff position is increased or decreased according to the requirement of work for each office.

(d) The time taken in issuing passports depends upon the completion of papers including receipt of verification reports from the Police authorities concerned. However, Passport Offices have been instructed to issue passports within five working days of completion of papers in the office.

(e) Complaints

Year	Received	Settled
1984	715	280
1985	1100	400
1986	1725	872
Total:	3540	1552

As soon as a complaint is received concerned Regional Passport Officer/Passport Officer is asked to furnish reasons for delay and to take action to redress the grievance. The pending complaints are due to non-receipt of information from applicants/other authorities and/or clear Police Reports for which PROs/POs are directed to issue periodical reminders.

Preaching of hatred against different religions through various publications

177. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for establishing a cell in his Ministry for taking action against writings and articles published in various journals, weeklies, periodicals and dailies preaching hatred against followers of different religions and attacking different religions and their leaders;

(b) if so, by when such a cell is likely to be set up; and

(c) whether Government propose to suitably amend the existing law to punish editors, writers, publishers and printers of such papers, periodicals and publications containing such highly inflamatory material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

Under the existing laws, State Governments alone are competent to initiate such action.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Crisis in Textile Industry

178. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a serious crisis in the textile industry even in spite of introduction of the new textile policy by Government; and

(b) what measures have been taken by Government to pull out the textile industry from the said crisis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The overall textile production has gone up after introduction of the new Textile policy in June, 1985. However, the organised mill industry is experiencing certain problems arising out of demand recession for its production. Government have taken up this matter with the financial institutions, so that their working Capital requirements could be sorted out.

Violence by GNLF in Darjeeling

179. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent thirteen day Bandh call by the GNLF supporters demanding Gorkhaland, there have been large scale violence and arson causing extensive damage to the public and private property and completely paralysing life in Darjeeling and its surrounding areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks were held with the GNLF leader in this respect; if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) As per reports available there has been large scale